IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 15 and 16 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend claims 1-4, 10, and 11, and add new claims 17 and 18 as shown below. Unamended claims are reproduced for the Examiner's convenience.

1. (Amended) A method for the prevention of insulin dependent [(]type I[)] diabetes comprising administering to a prediabetic individual a composition comprising an anti-VLA4 antibody.

2. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the anti-VLA4 antibody selected from the group consisting of HP1/2, HP2/1, HP2/4, L25, [and] P4C2 and P4G9.

3. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the anti-VLA4 antibody is HP1/2[,] or a fragment thereof[,] which is capable of binding to VLA4.

4. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the anti-VLA4 antibody is a humanized HP1/2 antibody[,] or a fragment thereof[,] which is capable of binding to VLA4.

5. (Unchanged) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the composition is administered at a dosage so as to provide from about 0.1 to about 10 mg/kg, based on the weight of the prediabetic individual.

6. (Unchanged) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the composition is administered in an amount effective to coat VLA4-positive cells in the peripheral blood for a period of 1-14 days.

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7. (Unchanged) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the composition is administered in an amount effective to provide a plasma level of antibody in the prediabetic individual of at least 1 μg/ml.

8. (Unchanged) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the composition is administered prior to the development of overt diabetes, as measured by a serum glucose level of less than about 250 mg/dL.

9. (Unchanged) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the prediabetic individual is a human.

10. (Amended) A method for the treatment of <u>insulin dependent type I</u> diabetes comprising administering to a mammal with a susceptibility to <u>insulin dependent type I</u> diabetes[,] <u>at least one member selected from the group consisting of</u> an antibody, a recombinant antibody, a chimeric antibody[,] <u>and</u> fragments <u>thereof which are capable of binding to VLA4</u> [of such antibodies, a polypeptide or a small molecule capable of binding to the α_4 subunit of VLA4, or combinations of any of the foregoing,] in an amount effective to provide inhibition of onset of diabetes.

11. (Amended) A method according to Claim 10, wherein the antibody, <u>recombinant antibody, chimeric antibody, and fragments thereof</u> [polypeptide or molecule is] <u>are</u> selected from <u>the group consisting of</u> monoclonal antibody HP1/2[;] <u>and</u> Fab, Fab', $F(ab')_2$ or F(v) fragments <u>thereof</u> [of such antibody; soluble VCAM-1 or fibronectin polypeptides; or small molecules that bind to the VCAM-1 or fibronectin binding domain of VLA4].

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12. (Unchanged) A method according to Claim 10, wherein the composition comprises a plurality of anti-VLA4 monoclonal antibodies or VLA4-binding fragments thereof.

13. (Unchanged) A method according to Claim 10, wherein the composition is administered at a dosage so as to provide from about 0.1 to about 10 mg/kg of antibody, antibody fragment, polypeptide or small molecule, based on the weight of the susceptible mammal.

14. (Unchanged) A method according to Claim 10, wherein the composition is administered in an amount effective to coat VLA4-positive cells in the peripheral blood for a period of 1-14 days.

-- 17. A method for the treatment of diabetes comprising administering to a mammal with a susceptibility to diabetes a composition comprising a VLA4 binding agent comprising soluble VCAM-1, VCAM-1 peptides, fibronectin, fibronectin having an alternatively spliced non-type III connecting segment, or fibronectin peptides.

18. A method according to Claim 17, wherein said fibronectin peptides contains an EILDV amino acid sequence. --

Withdrawn Never presented before

Different Group

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